

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application with claims 1, 15, 17, and 19 being the independent claims. Claims 10, 14, 15, 17, and 18 are amended.

Objection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action indicated that claims 10 and 14 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for failing to limit the subject matter of a previous claim and as reciting no structure. Applicants have amended both claims 10 and 14 to further define the invention. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action indicated that claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being misdescriptive. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 7 recites that “the distributor and an upper portion of the housing cooperate to define a diverging room.” Paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Specification states:

The upper portion 48 of the housing 12 includes a pair of corresponding interior surfaces 54a, 54b that diverge from one another from the top 26 to the walls 16 and 20, respectively. A distributor 56 . . . is disposed between the surfaces 54a, 54b in any conventional manner.

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. . . The upper portion 48 of the housing 12 and the distributor 56 cooperate to define a diverging room 60.

The specification specifically describes an exemplary diverging room, and the exemplary room is shown in detail in Fig. 2. Applicants submit that in view of the specification and drawings, the diverging room is not misdescriptive. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action indicated that claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,944,602 to Grundy.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a ventilator having a housing, a conduit, and a fan. In detail, claim 1 recites:

A self-contained ventilator, comprising:
a housing having a support member for supporting the pollution source and a filter vertically spaced from the support member for filtering contaminants emitted from the pollution source, the filter and a lower portion of the housing defining a first converging room;
a conduit connecting the first converging room to an upper portion of the housing such that a flow path is defined through the housing and conduit; and
a fan for generating an airflow that follows the flow path.

Grundy discloses a cabinet (20) having a cavity (23) between an accumulation chamber (45) and a collection chamber (50). An airflow passage (32) extends from the discharge chamber (58) to the accumulation chamber (45). A filter (31) is disposed at the top of the cavity (23). The filter (23) and an upper interior wall (47) of the cabinet (20) cooperate to define the accumulation chamber (45). A pre-filter (68) is disposed adjacent a pressure blower (52) and filters outside air entering the cabinet (20).

However, Grundy does not anticipate claim 1 because Grundy fails to disclose all the features of claim 1. For example, Grundy fails to disclose a ventilator having all the features recited in claim 1, including a “filter and a lower portion of the housing defining a first converging room,” wherein the filter is “vertically spaced from the support member for filtering contaminants emitted from the pollution source.” Instead, Grundy discloses a filter (31) disposed at the top of a cavity (23). It appears that the filter (23) and an upper interior wall (47) of the

cabinet (20) cooperate to define an accumulation chamber (45). However, the filter (23) does not define any room with “a lower portion of the housing,” as recited in claim 1.

Grundy does disclose a second filter, the pre-filter (68). However, the pre-filter (68) and the bottom panel (67) of Grundy do not “[define] a first converging room” as recited in claim 1 because the pre-filter (68) screens outside air entering the cabinet and, therefore, is not “vertically spaced from the support member for filtering contaminants emitted from the pollution source,” as recited in claim 1. Because the pre-filter (68) does not “[define] a first converging room” as recited in claim 1, Grundy does not anticipate claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1.

Claims 2, 4, 6-12, and 14 depend from and add additional features to independent claim 1. Therefore, these claims should be allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow these claims.

Claim 15

Claim 15 recites:

A ventilator for filtering contaminants introduced from a wafer processing system, the ventilator comprising:
a housing separable from the wafer processing system for receiving and storing one or more wafers;
a filter positioned inside the housing and disposed to filter contaminants emitted from the pollution source;
a conduit connected to the housing and configured to direct airflow from adjacent the filter to a top portion of the housing; and
an airflow generator for providing an airflow along a closed-loop flow path defined through the housing, the conduit, and the filter.

Claim 15 is not anticipated by Grundy because Grundy does not disclose all the features of claim 15. For example, Grundy fails to disclose any ventilator having all the features of claim

15, including “a filter . . . disposed to filter contaminants emitted from the pollution source” and “a conduit . . . configured to direct airflow from adjacent the filter to a top portion of the housing.” Instead, Grundy discloses an airflow passage (32) extending from a discharge chamber (58) to an accumulation chamber (45). The airflow passage (32) is not configured to direct airflow “from adjacent the filter to a top portion of the housing” as recited in claim 15 because any airflow directed by the airflow passage (32) does not flow “from adjacent the filter to a top portion of the housing.”

The pre-filter (68) in Grundy cannot be equivalent to the filter recited in claim 15 because the pre-filter (68) is not “disposed to filter contaminants emitted from the pollution source.” Instead, the pre-filter (68) filters outside air flowing into the cabinet. Accordingly, Grundy does not anticipate claim 15. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 15.

Claim 16 depends from and adds additional features to independent claim 15. Therefore, claim 16 should be allowable for at least the reasons that claim 15 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 16.

Claims 17 and 18

Claims 17 and 18 are directed to methods for filtering contaminants, and each recites, among other elements, “the conduit being arranged to direct airflow from adjacent the filter to a top portion of the housing” and “the airflow entrains [the] contaminants” to “filter[] the contaminants when passing through the filter.” For the reasons indicated above with respect to claim 15, Grundy does not disclose these features. Because Grundy fails to disclose all the features of either of independent claims 17 and 18, both claims 17 and 18 are not anticipated. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow these claims.

Claim 19 depends from and adds additional features to independent claim 18. Therefore, claim 19 should be allowable for at least the reasons that claim 18 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 19.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action indicated that claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Grundy. The Office Action indicated that claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Grundy in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0017617 to Becke. However, claims 3, 5, and 13 depend from and add additional features to independent claim 1. For the reasons explained above, claim 1 should be allowable. Therefore, these claims also should be allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claims 3, 5, and 13.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, independent claims 1, 15, 17, and 18 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2-14, 16, and 19 depend from and add additional features to their respective independent claims and, therefore, also are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections and issue a formal notice of allowance.

App. No. 10/614,564
Atty Docket No. 24061.13/TSMC2002-0894
Customer No.: 42717

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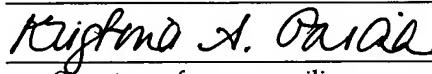
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R111044

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